

REMARKS

Claims 25-48 are pending in the instant application. To better set forth the features and embodiments of the present invention, Applicants have cancelled original claims 1-24 and added new claims 26-48. Original claims 1-8, drawn to an "induction solution," are substituted by new product claims 25-32. Original claims 9-16, drawn to an "analysis kit," are replaced with new kit claims 42-48. Original claims 17-24, drawn to a "process for rapid detection of coliform bacteria using the induction solution," are replaced with new process claims 33-41. Support for the above amendments may be found in the entire specification, as originally filed, particularly at pages 4-18. No new matter has been introduced by the addition of the new claims presented herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, new product claims 25-32 (corresponding to original claims 1-8), for prosecution on the merits. New Claims 33-41 and 42-48, corresponding to original claims 17-24 and 9-16, are withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in a divisional or continuation application(s). Withdrawn process claim 33 has been amended to depend on product claim 25. Applicants understand that withdrawn process claim 33 and other process claims will be rejoined, when the product claim 25 (original product claim 1) as well as process claims 26-32, from which they all depend therefrom, are allowed.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits based on the preceding is requested. Should the Examiner have any questions that would facilitate further prosecution or allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative designated below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
225 Reinekers Lane
Suite 560
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(202) 326-0300


Raymond Van Dyke
Reg. No. 34,746

Date: January 26, 2009

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE